

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RATIFIED SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CHEYENNE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER GENERAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUNDING, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING TO REQUEST FUNDING FOR THE LARAMIE COUNTY LEAD PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000.00.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF: REQUESTED FUNDS WILL BE USED TO MINIMIZE FOOD INSECURITY AMONG LARAMIE COUNTY LEAD PARTICIPANTS.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Cheyenne Regional Medical Center is accepting applications under their General Community Benefit Program and;

WHEREAS, the Laramie County Board of Commissioners is eligible to apply for and receive community benefit funds for the Sheriff's Office and;

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of Laramie County has been provided with preliminary cost estimates and information on this project and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF LARAMIE COUNTY that a grant application in the amount of \$1,000.00 be submitted to Cheyenne Regional Medical Center for consideration of assistance in funding the Laramie County Sheriff's Office for the LEAD Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Sandra Bay, or her successor in the position of Laramie County Grants Manager, is appointed as agent of the Laramie County Board of Commissioners to execute and submit applications and certifications for these funds and to receive funds and implement the programs funded under this grant.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2024.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Laramie County Commissioners

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Lee, Laramie County Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received and Approved as to Form only by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laramie County Attorney's Office

Date: 4/22/24

***Applications must be typed and submitted electronically to:***

Amy Spieker, DrPH, MPH and Brittany Wardle, MPH  
Amy.Spieker@crmcwy.org and Brittany.Wardle@crmcwy.org  
(307) 773-8188 and (307) 773-8260

***Please limit the applications to only the requested materials.***

**Cover Sheet Format:**

Date of Request: April 19, 2024

Program/Activity Title: Laramie County L.E.A.D. (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) Program

Organization's Legal Name: Laramie County Sheriff's Office

Physical Address: 1910 Pioneer Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82001

Website: <https://leadbureau.org/>

Key Contact for this Project: MacKenzie Howard

Phone Number: 307-286-0407

Email Address: mackenzie.howard@laramiecountywy.gov

Estimated start date: 6/1/24

Amount Requested: \$1,000

Dates and amounts of funds/resources previously provided by Cheyenne Regional for this purpose: \$1,500 awarded in FY21 for two years

Please describe other funders of this project: COSSUP (Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program)

What percent of your operating budget do these funds represent? 1%

Typed Name, Signature and date signed of the Program Director. (CRMC program applications must also be signed by Vice President).



MacKenzie Howard



**Two (2) page narrative, please explain the following:  
Budget can be provided as an additional attachment**

The Laramie County LEAD program was launched in 2020 with the goal of diverting individuals at high risk of becoming involved with the criminal justice system due to untreated mental health issues, substance misuse, and/or extreme poverty. We are a grant funded program, with our most recent award being \$1.3 million. The majority of our budget goes towards salaries for one fulltime program manager and two fulltime case managers. Each year, we have approximately \$12,000 allocated for client support funds to help with expenditures such as medications, medical/mental health co-pays, identification cards, housing (application fees, eviction prevention), drug testing fees, and transportation to treatment facilities.

Under our existing grant funding, we are unable to use funds on food, which is a frequent need among the population we serve. The majority of LEAD participants experience significant food insecurity and are oftentimes down on their luck when we initially make contact with them. Our previous grant award from the Community Benefit Fund allowed us to purchase an occasional warm meal or coffee for LEAD participants and that gesture in itself was invaluable in building rapport. A frequent expenditure we have is purchasing bus tickets for individuals to get to inpatient treatment in Sheridan, Casper, Rock Springs, or Cody, Wyoming. Given that participants will be on the bus for 6+ hours with no money, we typically purchase them snacks as a warm send off on their journey towards sobriety and healing.

The LEAD program aims to reduce barriers that cause individuals to recidivate, such as not being able to afford drug testing fees or not having a reliable ride to court. Given that many folks have previously had negative experiences with the traditional criminal justice system, it takes time and a trauma informed approach to establish trust and rapport with justice involved individuals. Our program serves marginalized members of our community, including those who are unhoused and those who are struggling with substance use disorders. Many of our participants have endured significant trauma and have very little, if any, support from family members or friends who may influence their life in a positive way.

The work of the LEAD program aligns with several of the needs identified in the community needs assessment. Specifically, we assist participants with housing stability, whether it be covering a partial month's rent to prevent eviction, helping with applications for Cheyenne Housing Authority, or searching for available rentals within the participants budget. Unfortunately there is a significant lack of affordable housing in Laramie County. For LEAD participants, housing is further complicated due to most individuals having criminal records related to substance use, which disqualifies them from most low-income housing options. We often partner with Bethel Outreach Ministries, a faith-based non-profit organization that focuses on re-entry support for recently discharged inmates of all kinds of correctional institutions in Wyoming. The agency is driven by an unwavering commitment to support and assist those trying to rebuild and restore their lives after experiencing incarceration. Bethel Ministries has been able to help many LEAD participants with deposit and/or rent funds to obtain housing or prevent eviction.

Recognizing that many of Laramie County's most vulnerable individuals lack access to quality healthcare, the LEAD program works closely with two federally qualified health centers, Crossroads Healthcare Clinic and HealthWorks. We assist participants with completing intake paperwork, apply for the sliding fee scale, scheduling appointments, advocating for their physical and mental health needs, and providing transportation to appointments. In the event that the participant is prescribed a medication they cannot afford or has co-pays related to their visit, the LEAD program can assist with these expenses to ensure they are receiving adequate care. The vast majority of LEAD participants are uninsured, but

our program staff can assist with applying for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which may then allow folks to be covered by Medicaid. We also have the ability to help people explore coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. Lastly, LEAD is working diligently to help those struggling with opioid use disorders access medication assisted treatment (MAT) so they can achieve and maintain long-term sobriety.

The third priority identified by the Community Health Improvement Plan is economic stability by increasing workforce participation. The LEAD program has referred several individuals to vocational training programs such as Dads Making a Difference, Climb Wyoming, Workforce Services, and the various day labor organizations in our community. We spend the majority of our time providing transportation for participants to obtain forms of identification for employment, apply for work, attend job interviews, and get to work once they've secured employment. Very few LEAD participants have their own vehicle due to the expense of the vehicle itself, car insurance, and registration fees.

In screening our LEAD participants, nearly all of them report feeling lonely, sad, depressed, or hopeless nearly every day. Because many individuals have strained or unhealthy relationships with their family and friends, they lack meaningful connections with people who are in a position to help in a non-punitive way. By building a sense of community with our participants, we contribute to Cheyenne Regional Medical Center's definition of health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." We aim to provide a safe place to individuals to land, where they will be treated with dignity and respect, while also allowing them the autonomy to decide the changes they feel ready to make in their lives.

Throughout the past year, the LEAD program has been able to provide occasional meals for approximately 40 participants utilizing Community Benefit funding. We typically use these funds during an initial meeting as a welcoming gesture or as a way to celebrate participants who are making positive, meaningful changes in their lives. Since the program launched in September 2020, we have received 278 referrals from our law enforcement partners. Of those, 193 individuals met our eligibility criteria. We are recently revised our MOU to include new community partners such as the Laramie County Treatment Court Programs, Wyoming Department of Corrections (Laramie County Field Office), Laramie County Public Defender's Office, Community Action of Laramie County, HealthWorks, Volunteers of America, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, Cheyenne Police Department, and the Laramie County Sheriff's Office. Through our growing network of community agencies and our fully staffed program, we are able to extend help to more individuals. Realizing the stages of change and the challenges many participants face, we focus on harm reduction and incremental improvements.

The LEAD program respectfully requests \$1,000 in funding which will be utilized to minimize food insecurity among some of our community's most vulnerable individuals, while also allowing us to build rapport and celebrate victories with those who many members of society have given up on. Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We sincerely appreciate your time and consideration in advance.